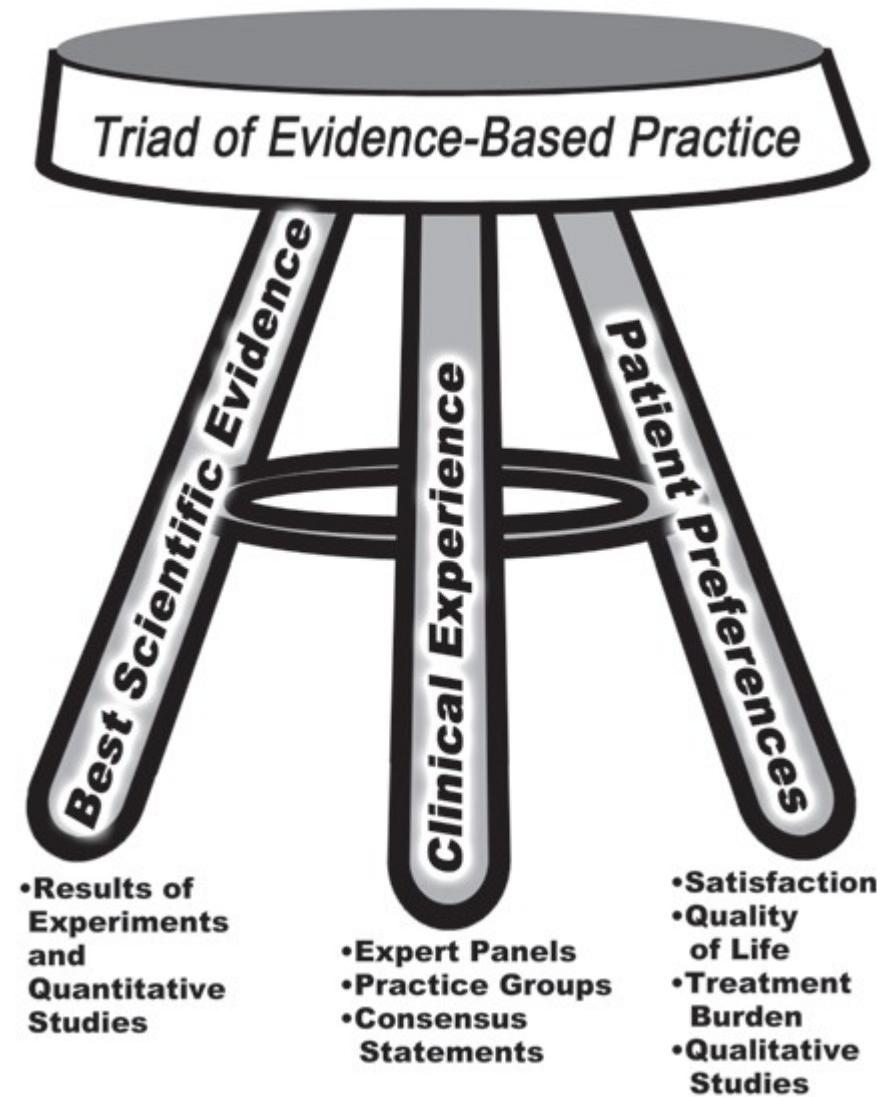


Types Of Evidence

Martin Neal



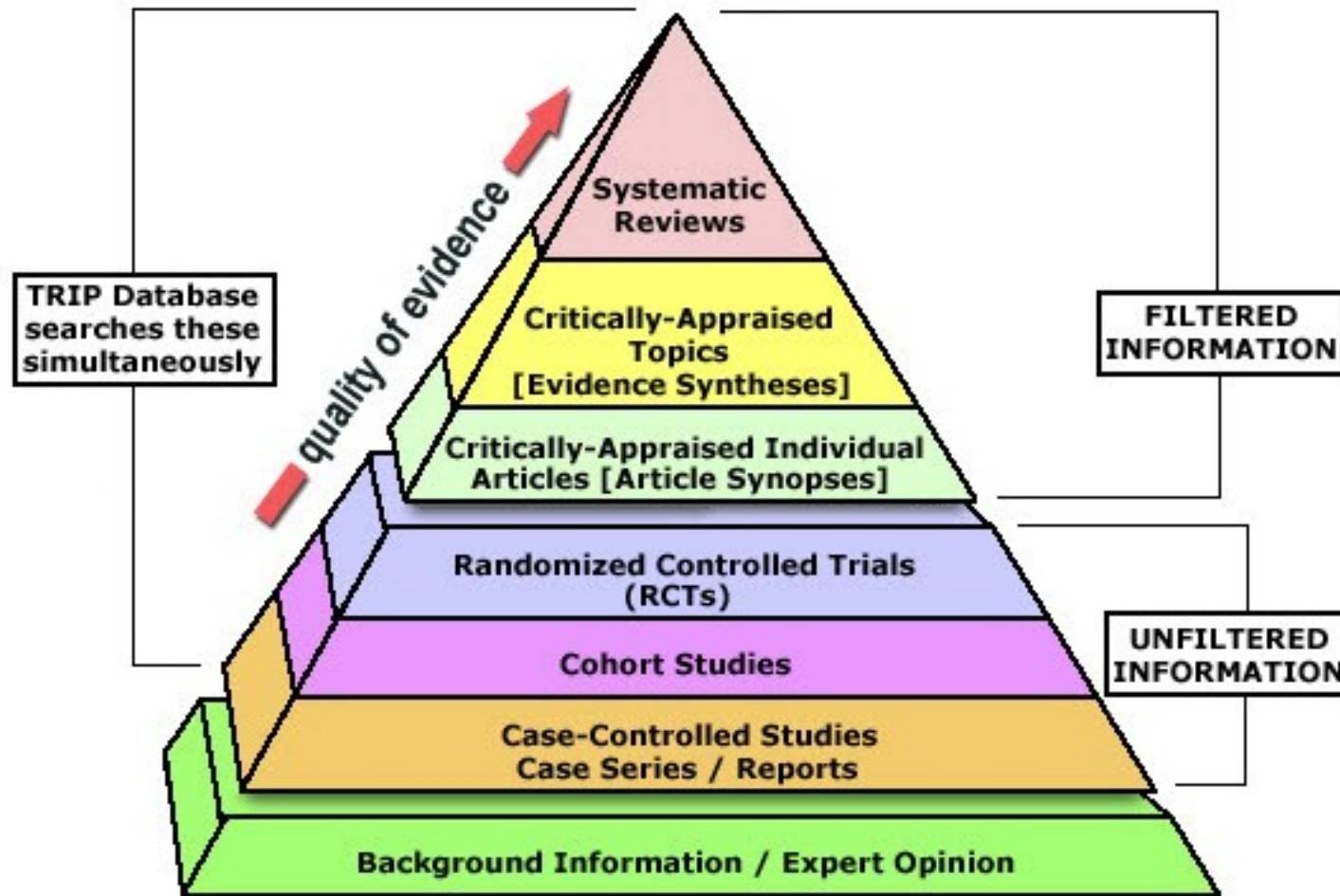
Types of Literature Whittacker & Williamson (2011)

- Journal articles in printed and electronic form
- Books in printed and electronic form
- Official and legal publications
- Systematic reviews and meta-analysis, clinical guidelines, National Service Frameworks
- Grey Literature

What are the types of evidence we are likely to find?

- Clinical Guidelines NICE
- Systematic Reviews or Meta-analyses
- RCTs
- Quasi-experimental Studies
- Descriptive or Qualitative Studies
- Audit
- Expert opinion, narratives
- Anecdote

Hierarchies



	Effectiveness	Appropriateness	Feasibility
Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic review • Multi-centre studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic review • Multi-centre studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systematic review • Multi-centre studies
Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT • Observational studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT • Observational studies • Interpretive studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCT • Observational studies • Interpretive studies
Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uncontrolled trials with dramatic results • Before and after studies • Non-randomized controlled trials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive studies • Focus groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive studies • Action research • Before and after studies • Focus groups
Poor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptive studies • Case studies • Expert opinion • Studies of poor methodological quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert opinion • Case studies • Studies of poor methodological quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert opinion • Case studies • Studies of poor methodological quality

Figure 1 Hierarchy of evidence: ranking of research evidence evaluating health care interventions.

Question type – Study design – search tip

Question domain	Best feasible study design	Best single MEDLINE search term
Diagnosis	Cross-sectional study	Sensitivity
Aetiology / Risk	Cohort or RCT	Risk
Prognosis	Cohort	Exp *cohort studies
Treatment	Systematic review or RCT	Meta-analysis.pt or RCT.pt

The most important question ?

- What is it I am trying to do ?
- What type of literature I am looking for.

What have learnt you so far ?

- 4 major methodological approaches
 1. Qualitative
 2. Quantitative
 3. Mixed methods
 4. Systematic reviews

Qualitative Evidence

- Ethnography
- Grounded Theory
- Phenomenology
- Narratives

Qualitative Evidence

- What are the aims of qualitative evidence ?
- What can you do with qualitative evidence ?
- What terms do you associate with qualitative research?
- What can't qualitative research do ?

Quantitative Evidence

- Meta analysis
- RCTS
- Cohort studies
- Surveys

Quantitative Evidence

- What are the aims of quantitative evidence ?
- What can you do with quantitative evidence ?
- What terms do you associate with quantitative research?
- What can't quantitative research do ?

Systematic Reviews

- Meta-analysis
 - Meta ethnography
 - Critical Interpretive Synthesis
 - Integrative reviews
 - EPPI
-
- Cochrane
 - DARE
 - EPPI
 - PROSPERO

Systematic Reviews

- What are the aims of systematic reviews?
- What can you do with systematic reviews?
- What terms do you associate with systematic reviews
- What can't systematic reviews do ?

Mixed Methods

- Best of both worlds

Mixed Methods

- What are the aims of mixed methods evidence ?
- What can you do with mixed methods ?
- What terms do you mixed methods ?
- What can't mixed methods ?

So What Now

Identify an area of
interest



Search for a range of material (not just research) related to that topic



By critically appraising, consider what material you are going to include in your literature review